

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A hard-drawn steel wire comprising:

C: 0.5 - 0.68 mass% (hereinafter, referred to as %),

Si: 1.2-1.95%,

Mn: 0.5-1.5%, ~~and~~

Cr: ~~0.5~~ 0.62 -1.5%,

Fe and inevitable impurities, wherein

said wire ~~, which~~ consists of at least one selected from the group consisting of ferrite and pearlite, and

said wire further ~~comprising~~ comprises 5 particles/100 $\mu\text{m}^2$  or less of carbides wherein the circle-equivalent diameters of the carbides are more than 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The steel wire according to claim 11, further comprising 0.05-0.5% of Ni.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The steel wire according to claim 11, further comprising 0.3% or less (excluding 0%) of Mo.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The steel wire according to claim 12, further comprising 0.3% or less (excluding 0%) of Mo.

Claims 15-42 (Canceled)

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The steel wire according to claim 11, said wire comprising 2 particles/ $100\mu\text{m}^2$  or less of carbides wherein the circle-equivalent diameters of the carbides are more than  $0.1\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The steel wire according to claim 43, further comprising 0.05-0.5% of Ni.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The steel wire according to claim 43, further comprising 0.3% or less (excluding 0%) of Mo.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The steel wire according to claim 44, further comprising 0.3% or less (excluding 0%) of Mo.

Claim 47 (Canceled)

Claim 48 (Currently Amended): ~~The~~ A method of using a steel wire, the method comprising coiling the steel wire according to of claim 11 ~~for use in~~ into a ~~hard-drawn~~ spring.

Claim 49 (Previously Presented): The steel wire according to claim 11, wherein the carbides are formed by subjecting a steel rod to a hot-rolling treatment comprising heating at  $1100^\circ\text{C}$  or more and cooling to a range of  $400$  to  $600^\circ\text{C}$  at a cooling rate of  $5$  to  $10^\circ\text{C}/\text{sec}$ .

Claim 50 (Previously Presented): The steel wire according to claim 49, wherein the carbides are formed by subjecting the steel rod, after the hot-rolling treatment, to a patenting treatment comprising austenitizing at a temperature of 880 to 950°C for a holding time of 50 seconds or longer and isothermally transforming at a temperature of 550 to 650°C.

Claim 51 (New): A method of making a steel wire, the method comprising  
subjecting a steel rod comprising 0.5 - 0.68% of C, 1.2-1.95% of Si, 0.5-1.5% of Mn, 0.62 -1.5% of Cr, Fe and inevitable impurities to a hot-rolling treatment comprising heating at 1100°C or more and cooling to a range of 400 to 600°C at a cooling rate of 5 to 10°C/sec;  
and  
producing the steel wire of Claim 11.

Claim 52 (New): The steel wire according to claim 11, wherein said wire consists of ferrite.

Claim 53 (New): The steel wire according to claim 11, wherein said wire consists of pearlite.

Claim 54 (New): The steel wire according to claim 11, wherein the wire comprises 0.63 - 0.68% of C.

Claim 55 (New): The steel wire according to claim 11, wherein the wire comprises 1.2-1.6% of Si.

Claim 56 (New): The steel wire according to claim 11, wherein the wire comprises 0.6-1.0% of Mn.

Claim 57 (New): The steel wire according to claim 11, wherein the wire comprises 0.7 -1.0% of Cr